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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 5333
INFO RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE 4773
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 2070

UNCLAS STATE 199552

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [UNSC](#) [PREL](#) [LE](#) [SY](#)
SUBJECT: GUIDANCE: CONSULTATIONS ON BRAMMERTZ REPORT,
12/18/06

¶1. (U) USUN is authorized to draw from the points in para 2 during consultations on the 6th UN International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIIC) currently scheduled for December 18, 2006.

¶2. (U) Begin points.

-- We welcome the 6th report from the UN International Independent Investigation Commission and applaud Chief Investigator Serge Brammertz and his team for their rigorous and detailed investigation.

-- The Commission's work on the 14 cases shows significant indications of links between each case and indicates links to the Rafiq Hariri assassination.

-- We are encouraged by the quick progress in investigating Pierre Gemayel's assassination.

-- We understand that due to the dangerous and volatile political situation, and the sensitive stage of the investigation, UNIIIC cannot release some specific details about its findings at this point. We appreciate the Commission's focus on building a strong, prosecutable case and protecting its witnesses.

-- We continue to call on all parties, particularly Syria, to fully cooperate with Mr. Brammertz's investigation.

-- We welcome the Commission's decision to prepare for the establishment of the Tribunal and hope that the transition from investigation to prosecution goes smoothly.

-- We continue to support the prompt establishment of a Special Tribunal to try those suspected of involvement in these assassinations and fully support the efforts of the Commission.

-- We must also recognize that this investigation and the Tribunal do not exist in a vacuum. The recent surge in violence and efforts to weaken Prime Minister Siniora's cabinet are clearly intended to undermine Lebanon's sovereignty and political independence; we cannot let the democratic will of the Lebanese people be undermined by outside influences seeking to stop the Tribunal.

-- The Hariri tribunal must go forward, as a matter of justice, and to demonstrate that those who assassinated the leaders of Lebanon cannot do so with impunity.

End points.
RICE